

Docket No.: PB340P2

Group Art Unit: 1645

Examiner: Jana A. Hines

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Choi et al.

Application No.: 08/961,083

Filed: October 30, 1997

For: Streptococcus pneumoniae SP036

Polynucleotides, Polypeptides, Antigens and

Vaccines (As Amended)

PROVISIONAL ELECTION WITH TRAVERSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.143

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed March 6, 2003 (Paper No. 30), please consider the following remarks and provisional election, with traverse.

## Remarks

Claims 17, 18, and 198-268 are allowed.

Despite the fact that substantive examination in this case was made final with the mailing of a notice of allowance on February 1, 2000, the Examiner has issued a restriction requirement more than three years later, separating the allowed claims into four different groups. Group I is defined as claims 17 and 265-268, drawn to methods of attenuating an infection. Group II is defined as claim 18, drawn to a method of detection. Group III is defined as claims 198-233 and 236, drawn to isolated polynucleotides and vectors. Group IV is defined as claims 234-235 and 237-264, drawn to isolated polypeptides and methods of using them. See, Paper No. 30, page 2.

Applicants respectfully traverse the present restriction requirement.

The time for a restriction requirement is specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.142(a), which states: "Such requirement will normally be made before any action on the merits; however, it may be made at any time <u>before final action</u>." Emphasis added. Applicants submit that the

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Patent fees are subject to annual revision.		First Named Inventor				Gil H. Ch	oi -	<u> </u>	_≥
<u> </u>		Examiner Name				J. Hines		<u>Ω</u> _	- 뭐
Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27		Group Art Unit				1645		3_	_
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	1253	930	2253	465	Extension for	or reply within	n third month		
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1001 750 2001 375 Utility filing fee	1255	1,970	2255	985	Extension fo	or reply within	n fifth month		
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1204 84 2204 42 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent	1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)				
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**or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see above	*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0.00						0.00		
SUBMITTED BY					-	Complete /	(if applicable)		=
		rgistration No. 45,414 Telephone (301) 251-60				15	$\neg \neg$		
Signature Li 1. Hammel		illomoj/Ageny				April 7, 2003			